
From: Tarr, Jeremy M [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=98859532088E4437968231EB6FEF6B70-JMTARR1]
Sent: 1/26/2018 7:56:57 AM
To: Owen, Jenni [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=2282b573e68d40b38bf110b1530db523-jowen2]; White, Julia W [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=d92f33e7d43e44a9b15d6ec92e2348cb-jwbuckner]
Subject: Fwd: [External] Council of Churches Pipeline Position
Attachments: NCCC-GB-Statement_Pipelines_9.12.17-1.pdf; ATT00001.htm

From ED of NC Council of Churches.

Jeremy

Sent from mobile phone.

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <SRS0=mucR=EU=nccouncilofchurches.org=jennifer@securence.com>
From: Jennifer Copeland <jennifer@nccouncilofchurches.org>
Date: January 25, 2018 at 5:26:09 PM EST
To: <Michael.Regan@ncdenr.gov>, <jeremy.tarr@nc.gov>
Cc: "Eudy, Ken" <ken.eudy@nc.gov>, Susannah Tuttle <susannah@ncipl.org>
Subject: [External] Council of Churches Pipeline Position

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Friends,

As pressure mounts and decisions are imminent in the Atlantic Coast Pipeline process, I write to share the perspective of the North Carolina Council of Churches, the 18 denominations and 6200 congregations we represent.

It should come as no surprise that we do not look favorably on this pipeline proposal. Much of what we think can be extrapolated from the attached Policy Statement opposing fracked gas pipelines, since the Atlantic Coast Pipeline will be full of fracked gas. The NC Council of Churches has a long history of standing in the breach for the environment, predating even the landmark Clean Water and Clean Air Acts. Our opposition to this pipeline is consistent with the values we have long held. So, if you're looking for some high "moral" ground on which to stand in opposing it, we're happy to help with that.

Here is part of speech I delivered at a press conference last year opposing the pipeline:

We start with the believers, the believers in climate change, the believers in renewable energy, the believers in environmental justice, the believers in responsible regulation. We work with these people to help us advocate with and educate on behalf of the others. And for my part as the leader of the NC Council of Churches, representing 18 distinct denominations and over 6200 congregations, I start with people of faith.

As people of faith and in my case, the Christian faith, we have a God-given responsibility to care for creation. It is the single greatest gift of the creator to the creatures. Without it, we don't exist. Without respecting and maintaining the precarious and tender balance that allows life on this planet, we won't survive. Make no mistake, the creation would be far better off without humans running other creatures into extinction well before their time and devouring plant life at a record pace. Studies have shown the environment will do just fine without us.

So, my appeal for us today is selfish in some ways. I want humans to survive, which means we've got to take care of the gift of creation we've been given. If we don't, God and the creation will go on without us. This is a fact, my friends, and we need to start telling people this truth.

I'm a firm believer in the truth. But if I don't know the truth, then I'm not really choosing between right and wrong, good and bad; I'm just doing what I do without knowing the moral implications of my actions. In blissful ignorance, I continue supporting the disastrous use of fossil fuels by my habits, my investments, and my commitments. But when people know the truth, really know it, then they have to make a choice. When I know that methane — the element that leaks from natural gas pipelines — is 84 times more detrimental to the atmosphere than carbon dioxide, I must make a choice. When I know that fracking — the method used to obtain the natural gas that will flow through this pipeline — causes irreparable damage to drinking water and creates seismic instability, I must make a choice. When I know that pipelines cut through pristine landscapes and across tribal lands, I must make a choice. I can keep doing what I'm doing, for sure, but now I know that what I am doing is an affront to creation, a violation of the gift of creation. Now I know that what I'm doing is a sin.

We need to tell people this truth. We need to know the truth about the choices we make. May God empower us all to choose life, now and forever more. Thank you.

We hope all of you and Governor Cooper will continue to work diligently to protect the people of North Carolina by protecting the environment they call home.

Best, j

Jennifer E. Copeland, Ph.D.
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